

2798



Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. T. S. Mann
Superintendent.

State: *N. C.*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hyd. Sheet No. *2798*

LOCALITY:

*Ocracoke, Outer
vicinity & part of
Pamlico Sound*

1905

CHIEF OF PARTY:

W. D. Vinal

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COAST AND
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Department of Commerce and Labor,

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

SCHOONER "MATCHLESS",

CRICKET HILL, VA., 3, 7, 1906.

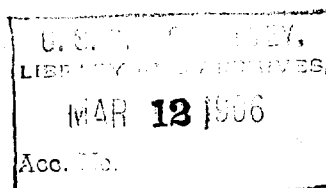
MAR 10 12 57 P. 1906

FILE
REFERRED

Mr. O. H. Tittmann,

Superintendent, C. & G. Survey,

Washington, D. C.



Sir:-

I have the honor to report with reference to the hydrographic survey made in the vicinity of Ocracoke, N.C., in the fall of 1905, as follows:

2. The projection, on which the results of the survey are plotted, includes the bar, inlet and the several channels leading into Pamlico Sound.

3. The Inlet is divided into two channels by Bird Island. That to the westward of the island is of recent formation and slight depth. That to the eastward has a least depth of 11 3/4 feet over the bar which is one and one-half miles off shore. The black and white perpendicular striped nun buoy, which is intended to mark the crest of the bar, is located about 100 metres too far east. Otherwise, the channel is well marked and, after crossing the bar, is deep affording good anchorage north of Bird Island. The channel formerly shown, leading northeast from the bar, no longer exists.

4. Several channels or slues lead from the Inlet into or through the bulkhead lying to the northward. Two of these channels are available for vessels of light draught. Teaches Hole Channel, leading nearly north, close to the west end of Ocracoke

Island, has a least depth of six feet. Wallace Channel, which was dredged to a depth of nine feet at its northwest end, is now available for vessels drawing only four to four and one-half ft.

5. Both of these channels are buoyed, and in addition there are three lighted beacons in Teaches Hole Channel which were established in April 1905:

Cockle Shoal Beacon marks the entrance to a nine foot anchorage abreast of the town of Ocracoke where the bottom is soft and vessels are sheltered by sand reefs. Swash Beacon and Swash Channel Beacon, the latter also known as Nine-foot Shoal Beacon, stand on either side of the south end of the Swash Channel leading from Teaches Hole Channel to Pamlico Sound. The outer end of the Swash Channel is marked by a black and white perpendicular striped can buoy one and one-half miles north west of these beacons.

6. Ocracoke Light House, on the east side of the entrance from the ocean and the sound, is a stone tower 75 feet high and painted white. The light is fixed white and is of the fourth order.

7. The light house at the southwest point of Royal Shoal, on the prolongation of the cut into Wallace Channel, is a screw pile structure 35 feet high showing a fixed white light of the fifth order. It is eight miles west by north from Ocracoke Light House and two and one-half miles ^{south} east from an unused light house which stands on the northwest point of Royal Shoal.

8. The Life Saving Stations and Church Spires at Ocracoke and Portsmouth are conspicuous objects, as is also the brick

chimney of the clam house at the entrance of Cockle Creek.

9. The depths of the channels and the outlines of the shores are subject to constant changes due to strong currents which are influenced largely by the direction and strength of the wind. The hurricane of 1899, besides destroying many houses and causing considerable loss of life, completely changed the shore line at the southwest end of Ocracoke Island and the northeast end of Portsmouth Island. The former extends three-fourths of a mile beyond the point shown by previous surveys and the latter has washed away to a similar extent. Portsmouth appears to have suffered more than Ocracoke and is now so isolated that vessels cannot land or anchor conveniently near. During heavy easterly storms the beaches are overflowed and both villages are completely surrounded by water.

10. Tides were observed at Ocracoke during daylight for two months and the mean range was found to be 1.07 feet. The range at the Inlet, from former observations, is 1.90 feet and in the Sound less than one foot. Currents sometimes attain a velocity approximating three miles an hour.

11. Ocracoke has a population of 750 and Portsmouth about one-third as many. Regular communication with Newberne and Washington, N.C., is maintained by several small schooners which make two or three trips each week from Ocracoke. Formerly a steamboat connected with the Norfolk and Southern Railroad performed this service, but it was discontinued on account of frequent delays in crossing the Swash. It is proposed to resume running this boat during the coming summer. Mail is carried

Mails are received six times a week, unless delayed by storms, being brought from Beaufort, N. C., by motor boat.

12. Oysters have been planted quite extensively in the vicinity of Royal Shoal. Clams are abundant on the flats comprising the bulkhead. Fishing, tonging and dredging are the principal industries.

13. The area covered by this survey approximates 65 square miles and 711 miles of sounding lines were run.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. H. Vinal".

Assistant, C. & G. Survey,

Commanding.

Department of Commerce and Labor
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Washington

Hyd sheet 2798 with tracing showing curves
after correction and revision, with recommendation
that the sheet be made to agree with tracing.

Returned herewith are standards 10, 143,
145, 146, 1000 & 1001 for correction from revised
Hyd. 2798. In applying this work to chart curves
should be generalized as much as possible.

- Add low water mark from top sheet where
not developed on Hyd. sheet and reject old
low water mark and shore line where in conflict
with new work —

G. Bradford

Charts have been corrected, now
ready for approval

Department of Commerce and Labor

Sheet 2798 Ocracoke Inlet

The soundings do not cross perfectly, especially on the Western part of the sheet, owing probably to the roughness of the water. In several places lines had to be shifted or omitted because the soundings did not agree with other lines, but the changes do not effect the general character of the work, which is good. The recorder failed to make note of passing objects - ends and beginning of lines - a part of the bottoms, ^{& abbreviations} were placed in the column for remarks. The development in vicinity of the two lights "Snash Light" and "Snash Channel Light" shows that the lights and buoy are wrongly placed, and Mr. Vinal says the local pilots go between the lights, instead of using the channel to the SWd which has between 6 + 7 ft. over the bar. Some of the lines run over a part of what is shown in former soundings as islands, but the records do not show whether these islands have entirely disappeared or not. Therefore they were only erased where soundings crossed over them. All new shoreline is shown in red. A wharf was located on Castle Island abreast of signal.

F. C. Dorn

June 8. 1906